



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup
(508) 979-1410
Elizabeth.Treadup@ci.new-bedford.ma.us

Date: September 13, 2007
For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

Mayor Announces Fiscal Year 2007 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Award Recipients

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Mayor Scott W. Lang announced today the recipients of \$3,546,589 in funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The recipients include community – based organizations and city departments that provide housing, economic development, public services and infrastructure improvements to assist in addressing the community based needs in New Bedford. The CDBG program is administered through the City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development.

The CDBG program is the nation's eighth largest federal domestic program, which provides funding for a wide variety of activities in more than a thousand communities across the country. Annually, the City of New Bedford receives approximately \$3.2 million in CDBG funding to provide programs and services to New Bedford residents with low and moderate income levels. The CDBG program has been administered locally since 1974 and has provided over \$100 million in funding to assist New Bedford residents by providing safe, decent and affordable housing, creating suitable living environments, and producing necessary public services and economic opportunities.

Mayor Scott W. Lang praised the CDBG program and said the city has “benefited tremendously” from this critical federal funding source. “CDBG funds have help to build roads and sidewalks, rehabilitate our public buildings; provide home ownership initiatives for first time homebuyers, renovate parks like Hazelwood Park, Gomes Field, and Roberto Clemente just to name a few. CDBG funds help us provide jobs to our youth in the Summer Recreation Program and assist in providing economic development loans to attract business and industry. CDBG funding has a far reaching effect in supporting the growing and changing needs of our city,” he said.

Patrick J. Sullivan, Director of the Office of Housing and Community Development said, “The flexibility of the CDBG program allows communities like New Bedford, to design programs and fund initiatives that meet the individual needs of the community. The CDBG program is truly a

community based initiative that allows the residents to provide input to determine how CDBG funds are best distributed to improve the quality of life for our residents, particularly those of low and moderate incomes.”

CDBG funding was provided to over 40 non-profit agencies and city departments to provide services and undertake activities to revitalize New Bedford.

Last year’s CDBG accomplishments include: over 25,500 individuals served through public service programs, improvements to public buildings including the Victory Park Warming House, branch libraries at Wilkes, Lawler, and Howland Green, Park Improvements at Buttonwood, Roberto Clemente, Hazelwood and Gomes; and economic loans to create jobs and attract new businesses.

###